

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An article-positioning machine of the type comprising the means to collect the articles {Z} in a plurality of individual housings {10} moving in a closed circuit and, in at least one drop zone {2a, 2b, 2c} allow the orientated articles {Z} to each drop inside a corresponding alignment conduit {3} moved together with each housing {10} and exit means to extract the orientated and aligned articles {Z} from said alignment conduits {3} onto an exit conveyor belt, ~~characterised in that~~ each alignment conduit {3} ~~comprises~~ comprising an upper portion {20} for article {Z} collection from the corresponding housing {10}, at least one moving intermediate portion {30} defining at least one conduit {31, 32} and a lower portion {40} for receiving the articles {Z} comprising at least two compartments {41, 42, 43} existing in a stationary support plane {7} interposed between the intermediate {30} and lower {40} portions, incorporating drive means {4} to selectively move said intermediate portion {30} in order to face said conduit {31, 32} with the upper portion {20} and receive an article {Z} from the same, and/or face the conduit {31, 32} with one or other said at least two compartments {41, 42, 43} of the lower portion {40} to transfer said article {Z} to the same via at least one interruption {5a, 5b} existing in said support plane {7}.
2. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said selective movement of the intermediate portion {30} is transversal to the drop direction of the articles {Z} along the alignment conduit {3}.
3. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said selective movement of the intermediate portion {30} is a return movement with stops at the ends of travel and without intermediate stops, each stop determining at least one of the cited facings of cited at least one conduit {31, 32}.
4. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said intermediate portion {30} comprises two adjacent conduits {31, 32}, said lower portion {40} comprises three adjacent compartments {41, 42, 43} and the support plane {7} comprises at least two interruptions {5a, 5b}.

5. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~wherein said selective movement of the intermediate portion (30) is a return movement with stops at the ends of travel and at least one intermediate stop, each stop determining at least one of the cited facings of at least one conduit (31, 32).
6. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~wherein said intermediate portion (30) comprises three adjacent conduits (31, 32) and said lower portion (40) comprises four or five adjacent compartments (41, 42, 43) and the support plane (7) comprises at least two interruptions (5a, 5b).
7. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein said intermediate portion (30) defines a single conduit (31, 32) and articulates with the lower end of the upper portion (20), with said selective movement of the intermediate portion (30) pendular with stops at, at least the ends of travel, each stop determining at least one of the cited facings of the conduit (31, 32) with one of the compartments (41, 42, 43) while constantly maintaining the cited facing with the upper portion (20).
8. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with ~~any of the previous claims~~claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones (2a, 2b, 2c) as there are compartments (41, 42, 43) in the lower portion (40).
9. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~wherein said drive means (4) ~~comprise~~comprises at least one fluidodynamic cylinder associated with each intermediate portion (30) and independently controlled by control means.
10. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~wherein said drive means (4) ~~comprise~~comprises at least one set of two fluidodynamic cylinders associated with each intermediate portion (30) and independently controlled by control means.
11. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 9 ~~or 10~~, ~~characterised in that~~wherein said drive means (4) ~~also comprise~~comprises a mechanical movement transmission for each intermediate portion (30).

12. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2-~~or 5~~, characterised in ~~that~~wherein said drive means ~~(4) comprise~~comprises at least one electric motor associated with each intermediate portion ~~(30)~~ and independently controlled by control means.
13. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2-~~or 5~~, characterised in ~~that~~wherein said drive means ~~(4) comprise~~comprises at least one electric motor and a mechanical movement transmission associated with each intermediate portion ~~(30)~~ with said electric motor independently controlled by control means.
14. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 2, characterised in ~~that~~wherein said drive means ~~(4) comprise~~comprises at least one stationary cam profile fixed to a machine bed and at least one cam follower associated with each intermediate portion ~~(30)~~.
15. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, characterised in ~~that~~wherein said housings ~~(10)~~ are adapted to collect the articles ~~(Z)~~ in a horizontal and pre-orientated position.
16. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, characterised in ~~that~~wherein said housings ~~(10)~~ and their corresponding upper access portions ~~(20)~~ comprise respective lateral moving parts ~~(11, 21)~~ coupled together and susceptible to being changed position to adapt the housings ~~(10)~~ and upper portions ~~(20)~~ to articles ~~(Z)~~ of different sizes.
17. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 16, characterised in ~~that~~wherein said housings ~~(10)~~ and/or their corresponding upper portions ~~(20)~~ also comprise respective interior moving parts ~~(14)~~ susceptible to being changed position to adapt the housings ~~(10)~~ and upper portions ~~(20)~~ to articles ~~(Z)~~ of different sizes.
18. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, characterised in ~~that~~wherein said lower portions ~~(40)~~ comprise at least one lateral moving part ~~(44, 45, 46)~~ associated with each compartment ~~(41, 42, 43)~~, with said lateral moving part ~~(44, 45, 46)~~ susceptible to being changed position to adapt the lower portions ~~(40)~~ to articles ~~(Z)~~ of different sizes.
19. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 18, characterised in ~~that~~wherein said lower portions ~~(40)~~ also comprise at least one interior moving part ~~(64, 65, 66)~~ associated with each compartment ~~(41, 42, 43)~~, with said lateral moving parts ~~(64, 65, 66)~~

susceptible to being changed position to adapt the lower portions ~~(40)~~ to articles ~~(Z)~~ of different sizes.

20. (Currently Amended) A machine in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein said upper portions ~~(20)~~ and/or intermediate portions ~~(30)~~ and/or lower portions ~~(40)~~ form respective moving assemblies susceptible to being changed position to adapt the upper ~~(20)~~ and/or intermediate ~~(30)~~ and/or lower ~~(40)~~ portions to articles ~~(Z)~~ of different sizes.

21. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 2, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

22. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 3, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

23. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 4, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

24. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 5, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

25. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 6, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

26. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 7, wherein said closed circuit is circular or elliptical and comprises as many drop zones as there are compartments in the lower portion.

27. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 10, wherein said drive means also comprises a mechanical movement transmission for each intermediate portion.

28. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 5, wherein said drive means comprises at least one electric motor associated with each intermediate portion and independently controlled by control means.

29. (New) A machine in accordance with claim 5, wherein said drive means comprises at least one electric motor and a mechanical movement transmission associated with each intermediate portion with said electric motor independently controlled by control means.